

# Hawaii Marine



Lance Cpl. James A. Sauter | Hawaii Marine

Marines of Alpha Company, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, prepare to jump from the tail ramp of a CH-53E Super Stallion into ocean water during a training exercise at Kaneohe Bay, Saturday. Marines helocasted into the water from a Super Stallion and then were extracted from the water via the special purpose insertion/extraction technique.

## Recon Marines insert, extract

**Lance Cpl. James A. Sauter**  
*Combat Correspondent*

Marines with Alpha Company, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, conducted helocast insertions and special purpose insertion/extraction with two combat rubber reconnaissance crafts during a training exercise at Kaneohe Bay, Saturday. the unit will be participating in the Rim of the Pacific 2012 multinational maritime exercise, taking place in and around the Hawaiian Islands.

“Helocasting is an effective means of inserting reconnaissance teams and equipment,” said Gunnery Sgt. Hunter Sorrells, company operations chief, Alpha Co, 3rd Recon Bn. “The speed, range and lift capability of the rotary-wing aircraft makes them excellent waterborne delivery and recovery vehicles. The SPIE system was developed as a means to rapidly insert and, or extract a reconnaissance patrol from areas that do not permit a helicopter to land.”  
During the training, the Marines

helocasted into the water from a CH-53E Super Stallion and then were extracted from the water via the SPIE technique. The Marines strapped onto a rope from the helicopter and were lifted out of the water toward land.  
“Recon teams must be prepared to conduct several means of insertion and extraction to accomplish a variety of missions,” said Sorrells about how this training relates to the Marines’ mission during RIMPAC. “A team that’s prepared to conduct these operations increases its chances of survival and successful mission accomplishment. We don’t just train for exercises; these events are requirements for us as reconnaissance Marines. It may look like fun and games but it’s serious business.”  
RIMPAC is the world’s largest

multinational maritime exercise and is held biennially in the state of Hawaii. Exercise participants are part of the Combined Force Land Component Command and conduct amphibious and land-based operations in order to enhance coalition and joint interoperability. RIMPAC provides realistic, relevant training that increases participants’ abilities to plan, communicate and conduct complex maritime and amphibious operations.  
“Today was my first experience with SPIE extractions,” said Cpl. Jonathan Gourley, reconnaissance man, Alpha Co, 3rd Recon Bn. “Although being in the water and working with helicopters is

*See RECON, A-7*

## HELICOPTER ANTI-SUBMARINE SQUADRON LIGHT 37 CELEBRATES UNIT ANNIVERSARY



Lance Cpl. Roberto Villa Jr. | Combat Camera

Lt. Cmdr. Matthew Somerville, operations officer, Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light 37, addresses the “Easyriders” during a ceremony for the squadron’s 37th anniversary at Hangar 103, July 3. Special guest Navy Capt. David W. Bouvé, deputy commodore, Helicopter Maritime Strike Wing, U.S. Pacific Fleet presented HSL-37 with the 2011 Battle Efficiency Award plaque. He also awarded the Naval Helicopter Association 2011 “Naval Aircrewman of the Year” Award for Region 1 to Petty Officer 1st Class Cody L. Berg, Naval aircrewman, HSL-37. “With a full plate of deploying detachments, work ups, and exercises it is difficult to carve out time for reflection,” said Cmdr. Scott Thoroman, commanding officer, HSL-37. “However, this year’s 37th anniversary was a key milestone in the history of the ‘Easyriders’ of HSL-37 and worthy of taking some time to reflect on our command and helicopter community heritage and those who have come before us.”



Photos by 1st Lt. Diann Olson | Hawaii Marine

Marines with 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, and Australian snipers train at Kaneohe Bay Range Training Facility, July 6.

## RIMPAC 2012 SNIPER CHALLENGE

Australian, Canadian and U.S. Marine snipers honed their skills at the Kaneohe Bay Range Training Facility, during Rim of the Pacific 2012. “We are able to share diverse fire knowledge and increase the training value within our militaries,” said 1st Lt. Jeremy Graham, scout sniper platoon commander, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment. Approximately 2,200 personnel from 9 nations are participating in RIMPAC 12 as part of Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force 3, Combined Force Land Component Command. The CFLCC is conducting amphibious and land-based operations in order to enhance multinational and joint interoperability.



An Australian sniper with the RIMPAC, Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force trains at a sniper, high-angle and unknown-distance course of fire at the Kaneohe Bay Range Training Facility, July 6.



**Relay for Life**  
See how the local community and the base team up and support cancer survivors, **B-1**



**Fish are Fun**  
Take a look at a different form of living art at the Living Art Marine Center, **C-1**

**Saturday**  
High — 88  
Low — 74

**Sunday**  
High — 87  
Low — 74

NEWS BRIEFS

DOE school bus transportation cuts

The Hawaii State Department of Education has released a listing of school bus routes that will be discontinued during the 2012-13 school year. With less than a month before the start of the school year, 103 bus routes will be cut affecting almost 2,400 students. Included on the listing of routes and streets that are affected by the proposed cuts are several that will impact families aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Camp H.M. Smith and Manana Housing Communities, who utilize the school bus as a means of transportation to Mokapu Elementary, Kailua Intermediate, Kalaheo High, Webling Elementary, Aiea Intermediate, Aiea High, Highlands Intermediate and Pearl City High Schools.

For more information regarding a complete listing of affected routes affecting Marine Corps Base Hawaii families please visit: <http://doe.k12.hi.us/bus/index.htm> or you may contact the MCB Hawaii School Liaison Office 257-8826 or 8897.

Sign up for the All-Marine sports teams

Headquarters Marine Corps is looking for players to join several of its All-Marine sports teams. Applications are still being accepted for the following teams:

- men’s soccer
- men’s basketball
- men’s and women’s golf
- men’s and women’s softball.

Anyone interested in trying out can print out an application from <http://www.usmc-mccs.org/SPORTS/> or call 254-7590.

Active duty service members, dependents offered free entry to national parks

In appreciation of the U.S. military, the National Park Service is now issuing an annual pass offering free entrance to all 397 national parks for active duty service members and their dependents. Eligible patrons can pick up a pass at the entrance station to Hawaii Volcanoes. For more information about the passes, visit <http://www.nps.gov/findapark/passes.htm>.

Illegal off-road drivers to be criminally cited

Law enforcement officers will cite offending recreational off-roaders on criminal misdemeanor charges if found on public lands, such as Kaena Point, or if found trespassing within closed areas such as Waikane Valley or Sacred Falls State Park. Recreational off-roading on public lands is strictly prohibited and is a criminal offense if you are cited. For more information about Hawaii’s recreational trails and off-road access areas, please call the Department of Land and Natural Resources at 587-0166.

No camping at Bellows Beach Park during RIMPAC

The Department of Parks and Recreation has announced that due to the biennial Rim of the Pacific maritime exercise, the department will not be issuing camping permits for the weekends of July 13 to 15, and July 27 to 29, for Bellows Beach Park. The City will be issuing permits for camping at Bellows Beach Park for the weekend of July 20 to 22, and appreciates the public’s cooperation during the month of July. For more information, contact DPR’s Permits Office at 768-3440.

Important phone numbers

On-Base Emergencies	911
Child Protective Service	832-5300
Fraud, Waste, Abuse & EEO	257-8852
Pothole & Streetlight Repair	257-2380
Base Information	449-7110
MCB Hawaii Chaplain	257-3552
DEERS	257-2077

Hawaii Marine

[www.mcbh.usmc.mil](http://www.mcbh.usmc.mil)

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AUSTRALIANS, ‘LAVA DOGS’ PRACTICE COMBAT TACTICS



Photos by Cpl. Colby Brown | Hawaii Marine

Australian Army Pvt. Marc Nelson, infantryman with Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, conducts combat tactics training at Kaneohe Bay Range Training Facility, Sunday. Marines from 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment completed the training with the Australians as part of RIMPAC 2012.



Lance Cpl. Llyod Acree, a rifleman with Alpha Company, 1/3, observes while soldiers with 1-RAR conduct combat tactics training, Sunday. Acree, a native of Little Rock, Ark., was one of the safety officers for the range.

Kaneohe Bay Air Show premium seating tickets now available

Press Release

Kaneohe Bay Air Show

Marine Corps Base Hawaii will celebrate the Marine Aviation Centennial with the 2012 Kaneohe Bay Airshow, featuring the Blue Angels, September 29 through 30. The air show is open to the public and general admission and parking are free.

In addition to a thrilling performance by the Blue Angels, action in the air includes a number of military demonstrations and civilian aerobatic displays. Witness gravity-defying maneuvers by the BO-105 helicopter, a 1946 Aeronca Champ, F/A-18 Hornets and more. Activity on the ground includes military static displays, a broad array of aircraft, a flash fire jet truck race, Xtreme Fun children’s carnival rides and Taste of Oahu food booths.

Gates will open daily at 9:00 a.m., and patrons are encouraged to carpool and arrive early. For those who wish to upgrade their viewing experience, premium seating is available in a variety of levels.

Grandstand seating allows spectators to rise above the crowd for a clear view of the aerobatic action; perfect for small groups, families or individ-

uals looking for a secure seat throughout the day.

Box seats located along the flight line allow for a show center viewing of all performances. Box seats may be purchased individually or as a group.

Marine Corps Community Services’ private, shaded chalets provide the ultimate one-of-a-kind air show experience. The Flight Deck Chalet includes unobstructed, shaded VIP runway seating, unlimited bottled water, safety ear plugs, and an official air show program.

The Devil Dog Chalet includes unobstructed, shaded VIP runway seating; picnic buffet BBQ lunch; afternoon snack; unlimited non-alcoholic beverages; safety ear plugs; preferred parking; and an official air show program.

The Top Brass Chalet includes unobstructed, shaded VIP runway seating, wholesome breakfast, island-inspired lunch buffet, an afternoon snack, unlimited beverages, safety ear plugs, preferred parking, an official air show hat, and an official air show program.

Tickets are available online at [www.kaneohe-bayairshow.com](http://www.kaneohe-bayairshow.com) and all military ticket outlets. For more information, please call Information, Tickets and Tours at 254-7563 or 477-5143.

2012 Kaneohe Bay Air Show featuring Fat Albert



A United States Marine Corps C-130T Hercules nicknamed, “Fat Albert Airlines,” transports Blue Angels maintenance and support personnel, communication equipment and spare parts. The aircraft travels at 320 knots – approximately 360 miles per hour – at an altitude of 27,000 feet. Powered by four turbo-prop engines, which produce 16,000 shaft-horsepower, Fat Albert has the power to land and depart on runways as short as 2,500 feet.

In past Kaneohe Bay Air shows, Fat Albert has demonstrated its jet-assisted takeoff (JATO) capability which enables the plane to takeoff from 1,500 feet of runway, climb at a steep 45-degree angle, and attain an altitude of 1,000 feet within 15 seconds. JATO is made possible with eight solid-fuel rocket bottles (four on each side), attached near the rear paratrooper door. This quick departure is a demonstration of the aircrafts’ capability in hostile environments or on short, unprepared runways.

Along with Fat Albert, the Sept. 29-30 air show will feature top aerial demonstration performers, the Taste of Oahu, military and civilian static displays, the Flying Leathernecks and much more. The event is free. For more information about the air show, visit <http://www.kaneohebayairshow.com>.

# AROUND THE CORPS

## Marines conduct transfer of authority in Helmand province



Cpl. Alfred V. Lopez | Regimental Combat Team 5

Col. Roger B. Turner Jr. and Sgt. Maj. Alberto Ruiz, the commanding officer and sergeant major of Regimental Combat Team 5, case the regimental colors during a transfer of authority ceremony, July 5.

**Cpl. Alfred V. Lopez**  
*Regimental Combat Team 5*

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE DELARAM II, Afghanistan** — Since their activation in 1917, 5th and 6th Marine Regiments have courageously fought for America, most notably in World War I when they fought side-by-side in the bloody Battle of Belleau Wood.

In December 2011, Regimental Combat Team 6 arrived in northern Helmand province to support Operation Enduring Freedom, joining RCT-5 on the same battlefield for the first time in 94 years.

This historic partnership is now coming to a close. Colonel Roger B. Turner Jr. and Sgt. Maj. Alberto Ruiz, the commanding officer and sergeant major of RCT-5, cased the colors of “Fighting Fifth” and transferred authority of their area of operations to Col. John R. Shafer and Sgt. Maj. Jamie Deets, the commanding officer and sergeant major of RCT-6 here, July 5.

“It truly is significant in the fact that 1918 is the last time that 5th and 6th regiments have fought together, side-by-side against an opposed force who was truly was intent on destroying the Marines that came to the battlefield,” said Shafer.

Since Belleau Wood, 5th and 6th Marines have fought in the same conflicts but not under the same command. In World War II, Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, they were members of separate divisions operating independently of one another.

“It really is special for us to be able to finish up our tour here and turn over to RCT-6,” explained Turner. “There have been a couple of other times in Marine Corps history where we have been able to serve together, but then to do this ceremony here in Afghanistan 95 years after the two regiments were brought into existence has really been special.”

In August 2011, RCT-5 arrived in southern Helmand. For the past 11 months, the regiment and its subordinate battalions worked in partnership with Afghan National Security Forces and the Afghan government to conduct counterinsurgency operations in Marjah, Nawa, Garmsir, and Khan Neshin districts.

“Over this last year, we’ve really spent the time trying to transition the Afghans into the lead, and build their forces,” said Turner. “They’ve increased their capability and they’ve gotten to where they can really run the show.”

Afghan forces in the key districts across southern Helmand have taken the

lead in security operations as Marine forces operating under RCT-5 have shifted to an advisory role. The increase in security has allowed the Afghan government to focus on the development of key infrastructure for these districts.

“In places like Marjah, Nawa and Garmsir, there’s education, there’s healthcare, there’s good irrigation, they’ve got good roads, they’ve got good security,” explained Turner. “The people are generally appreciative of what the Marines have done for them here. Our job has really been to transition the coalition effort over to the Afghans.”

The “Fightin’ Sixth,” has been tenacious in keeping pressure on the insurgency in northern Helmand.

Most notably was the recent completion of Operation Jaws, when RCT-6 effectively crippled the insurgent network and set the conditions for a successful transition to Afghan forces.

With the transfer of authority now complete, RCT-6 Marines and sailors are now responsible for an AO that has doubled in size.

“We’re here, to develop the ANSF, and they want to succeed,” said Shafer. “It’s absolutely nothing that they [my Marines] can’t handle. I have full confidence in the Marines of the regiment to

carry this through all the way to the end of the mission.”

The “Fightin’ Sixth” has been presented with an imposing challenge, but both leaders emphasized an important point at the close of the ceremony: the moment was less about the historic transfer of authority, and more about the increasing ability of the Afghan people to secure their own country.

“Before, when we were in the lead, we needed a much more focused effort out there,” explained Turner. “Now, since the Afghans are [growing] increasingly capable, one regiment can run the whole area. So, it’s less about the transfer of authority between us and more about the progress the Afghans have made.”

“We wouldn’t be doing this if the Afghans weren’t ready,” said Shafer. The whole reason why we are here is to enable the ANSF. They’re as trained as any other force can be ... we’re ready because they truly have shown and demonstrated that they are ready.”

With the 5th Marines’ colors cased and one final salute to those of 6th Marines, Turner and his Marines and sailors will begin preparing for their journey home to Camp Pendleton, Calif., as RCT-6 continuous to support and protect the people of Helmand province.

## 24th MEU detachment returns in time for Independence Day



Cpl. Glen Santy | 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing

**Capt. Samuel Robinson**, the detachment legal officer with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 252, embraces his son James at an Independence Day homecoming celebration, July 4.

**Cpl. Glen Santy**  
*2nd Marine Aircraft Wing*

**MARINE CORPS AIR STATION CHERRY POINT, N.C.** — Though there were no bright balls of fire in the sky, fireworks were still going off in people’s hearts as they reunited with their loved ones on the Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point flight line, July 4.

A detachment of more than 40 Marines and one sailor with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 252 returned to MCAS Cherry Point for a two-week operational pause from supporting the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit to rest, spend time with family and conduct refresher training before returning to service.

For the Robinson family the return of their loved one was not a moment too soon. Both Suzy, wife of Capt. Samuel Robinson, the legal officer of the VMGR-252 detachment, and 3-years-old James were celebrating their birthdays on Independence Day.

“Today is special to us because not only is it James’s birthday but it’s my birthday too, and it’s the best birthday present we could have asked for,” Suzy said.

With a baby girl due in August, Suzy has taken on the role of both mother and father in the house but said she has had constant support from the squadron to include frequent phone calls from other spouses and family.

“Of course [deploying] puts a strain on all of us,” Robinson said. “But the strength I have with my family helps me put aside my worries and remember why I do all of this, for my family and my country.”

Lt. Col. Charles Moses, the VMGR-252 commanding officer, said though the detachment is home, they will still be on alert.

“I feel proud that they are home,” said Moses. “But obviously the job is never done and their job is not done until November. This will give them the ability to reset in between their operational application of what we bring to the fight, but right now it’s to get them back for the 4th of July. There’s no better day to get them back home and safe.”

The 24th MEU deployed in March as the Central Command theater reserve, and has participated in multilateral exercises in Jordan and Morocco. It is expected to rotate with another MEU and return to the East Coast in November.

While attached to the MEU, the detachment is under the command of Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 261 (Reinforced).

The detachment’s return marks the first time the entire squadron has been at home together since September 2010. Before that, the whole squadron had not been in the same place at the same time since Sept. 11, 2001.

## Teaching green

**Courtesy Story**

*Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms*

**MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif.** — Marines and sailors from across the United States began arriving at the Combat Center last week to prepare for Large Scale Exercise-1/ Javelin Thrust 2012, the Corps’ prototype exercise demonstrating Marine Expeditionary Brigade-level operations.

To prepare for the exercise, Marines from Marine Forces Reserve units and 2nd Tank Battalion received training on the Ground Renewable Expeditionary Energy Network System and the Solar Portable Alternative Communications Energy System June 28, during a class held by Marine Forces Pacific Experimentation Center personnel at Camp Wilson.

As the Marine Corps implements the Commandant’s Marine Corps Expeditionary Energy Strategy and Implementation Plan, Marines must be able to operate systems that will provide



Diane Durden | Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms

**Lance Cpls. Chris Joe and Chris Bracco**, data technicians, 6th Communications Battalion, connect solar panel components to the converter of the Ground Renewable Expeditionary Energy Network System at the Western Area Research Test and Evaluation Center, June 28.

expeditionary energy utilizing renewable and sustainable energy sources.

Shortly after arriving, the students were given the components of a GREENS system and asked to assemble it with minimal guidance from the instructors.

“The system is very easy to set up,” said Ken King, facility manager, Marine

Forces Pacific Experimentation Center. He said having them set the system up beforehand emphasized this ease of usage and provided equipment familiarization, which enhanced the classroom presentation. For more of this story, visit <http://www.dvidshub.net/news/91184/teaching-green>.

# Maple LEAVES On a MOUT



Soldiers from Company A, 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, move past a danger area during a Military Operations in Urban Terrain exercise at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows on July 6.

## Canadian Forces conduct urban combat training with Marines

Photos by Cpl. Tyler Main  
Story by Cpl. Ben Eberle  
U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific

**MARINE CORPS TRAINING AREA BELLOWS, Hawaii** — Canadian Forces are nearly 4,000 miles from their home station in Shilo, Manitoba. During a three-day training event, their American hosts did everything they could to keep them from feeling at home.

U.S. Marines acted as the opposition force to more than 120 Canadian Forces soldiers during military operations in urbanized terrain (MOUT) training held, July 6-8, during Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) Exercise 2012.

"We've done urban operations training (in Canada), so here we're just enhancing our (standard operating procedures) by working with the Marines," said Canadian Forces Sgt. Victor Law, a section commander with Company A, 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry.

Law, who is in charge of an eight-man team, said it was his first time working with U.S. Marines. He added that the experience, along with the realism of the training facility's mock village, would prove valuable to his team.

"It's allowed our troops to break through plateaus and gain a better threshold on their soldiering abilities," said Law, from Quesnel, British Columbia.

Canadian Forces focused on tactics used during noncombatant evacuation operations, or NEO, which in a real-world situation would involve the evacuation of civilians from a hostile area.

"It's important training because if we do operate with them again we know exactly how they work, and how we can better ourselves (as a team)," said U.S. Marine Cpl. Noel Desantiago, a squad leader with Company C, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, and one of the Marines acting as the "enemy" during the training.

He spoke highly of his Canadian counterparts. "They operate very well – just as well as Marines do," said Desantiago, a native of Porterville, Calif.

More than 2,200 personnel from Canada, the United States and seven other countries are taking part in RIMPAC 2012 as part of the Combined Force Land Component Command, which is conducting amphibious and land-based operations throughout the exercise in order to enhance multinational and joint interoperability between participating nations.

Since the visiting Canadian Forces were unfamiliar with the mock village, the training progressed with a "crawl, walk, run" approach, becoming more elaborate each day. By the last full day of the evolution, the entire company of Canadian soldiers had successfully exercised the scenario.

Canadian Forces will continue training with U.S. troops, as well as other foreign militaries, until RIMPAC 2012 concludes Aug. 3.

"It's a fantastic opportunity for our soldiers, our leadership and our coalition partners," said Canadian Forces Capt. Benjamin Wong, operations captain for Company A. "It gives us an opportunity to cross-train ... it also gives us a good chance to measure ourselves and see where we stand in the world."

"We all have different experiences," said Wong, from Hamilton, Ontario. "(RIMPAC) gives us the opportunity to pool all those experiences into one big pot, see what other countries are doing, what lessons people have learned over the years, and then apply those lessons to our own missions and situations."

A total of 22 nations and more than 25,000 personnel are participating in the biennial exercise from June 29 to Aug. 3, which takes place in and around the Hawaiian Islands. RIMPAC is the world's largest naval exercise.



Cpl. Dean Disotell, a heavy-machine gunner with Company A, 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, climbs a ladder to secure a rooftop during a Military Operations on Urban Terrain exercise at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows on July 6.



Disotell, keeps a watchful eye during a Military Operations on Urban Terrain exercise at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows on July 6.

Pvt. Shilo Francis-Ardub, a platoon signaller with Company A, 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, provides security down a ladder well while a fellow soldier secures his legs from the roof above during a Military Operations on Urban Terrain exercise at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows on July 6. Approximately 2,200 personnel from nine nations are participating in RIMPAC 2012 as part of Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force 3, Combined Force Land Component Command.

(Right) A Soldier from Company A, 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, and a Marine from 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment provide security on a roof top during a Military Operations on Urban Terrain exercise at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows on July 6.



(Center left) Soldiers from Company A, 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, move to clear a house during a Military Operations on Urban Terrain exercise at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows on July 6.



(Center right) Francis-Ardub provides security while his fireteam clears a bridge during a Military Operations on Urban Terrain exercise at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows on July 6.

(Left) Soldiers from Company A, 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, and a Marine from 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment move in as a fireteam to clear a roof top during a Military Operations on Urban Terrain exercise at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows on July 6.

# Protecting the land, helping Marines train



Gordon Olayvar, the federal conservation law enforcement investigator and officer at the Environmental Compliance and Protection Department, and Ken Lesperance, conservation police officer with Department of Land and Natural Resources, prepare to go on patrol on Kaneohe Bay, June 20.

Story and photos by  
**Kristen Wong**  
*Photojournalist*

For some workers aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, a typical workday is indoors, at a desk, in front of a computer. Not many people can say part of their workday includes helping officials return a beached pilot whale to sea. For Gordon Olayvar, a workday is anything but typical. As the only federal conservation law enforcement investigator and officer aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Olayvar spends a lot of his time in the great outdoors.

“I think what’s very rewarding is knowing that I’m actively participating, I’m doing something to protect the environment,” Olayvar said.

The main purpose of his job is to ensure not only that the Marines are able to train, but also that the ecosystem surrounding the base and its other properties are well maintained and protected. “His job as a federal agent is to enforce conservation laws associated with natural resources and cultural resources, which include investigating fish and wildlife crimes, interviews, interrogation and seizing wildlife that are contraband,” said Capt. Derek George, the director of the Environmental Compliance and Protection Department.

Olayvar, who, as a Marine was last stationed on MCB Hawaii, previously worked as a bioscience technician with the state Department of Land and Natural Resources.

When he came to work aboard MCB Hawaii, Olayvar was first a bioscience technician, and eventually became a conservation law enforcement investigator and officer. He is a commissioned officer capable of arresting individuals in

his jurisdiction who are found violating either Hawaii state law or the base orders.

George said Olayvar operates on all the locations of MCB Hawaii, including Marine Corps Training Area Bellows, Kaneohe Bay, Camp H.M. Smith, Manana Housing Complex, Pearl City Annex, Waikane Valley, and Range Training Facility Puuloa.

Olayvar’s duties include patrolling the waters surrounding Mokapu Peninsula, and observe the Marines as they make landings with their amphibious assault vehicles, just to name a few.

He keeps his eyes out for various violations, including illegal hunting, swimming in unauthorized waters, or laying illegal nets. In recent years, Olayvar has collected a combined total of 20,000 feet of illegal netting on or around the base.

Olayvar said ultimately the goal of his job is to educate the public about natural resources and the regulations protecting them. He said units can even request that he teach classes about topics such as fishing regulations.

Fishing regulations are also given out at the New Arrivals

Orientation on base.

Although Olayvar’s works alone in his department, he also partners with various entities on and off base in his daily tasks, including the Provost Marshal’s Office, Waterfront Operations, National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration Office of Law Enforcement and the U.S. of Fish and Wildlife Service.

“For us it’s another set of eyes and ears out there,” said Take Tomson, a special agent at the NOAA Office of Law Enforcement. “Our office is very small so the more people out there that we know and we trust and are extremely competent is invaluable. In some ways Gordon is an extension of our office.”

Tomson said Olayvar has helped in responding to incidents of wild animal abuse and protecting monk seals by setting up perimeters around them. Tomson said Olayvar is very knowledgeable about monk seals, which also helps the department.

Though Olayvar is currently a one-man conservation law enforcement program, George said the Environmental Compliance and Protection Department eventually hopes to add more personnel to assist him as available resources allow.

“I think having a conservation law enforcement officer is a force multiplier,” George said. “It helps keeps us in compliance with the laws, which is a significant reason why we can

train in so many locations.”

George said Olayvar’s established rapport with offices such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Land and Natural Resources, and NOAA Fishery Service “helps facilitate training for Marines and sailors in various locations on the island.”

The base has various regulations that Olayvar is in charge of enforcing, including wildlife regulations, which can be found at <http://www.mcbh.usmc.mil/g1/adjutant/pubs/5000/BaseOP5233.2.pdf>.

Olayvar said fishing regulations have also recently changed, and can be found under <http://www.mcbh.usmc.mil/g1/adjutant/pubs/1000/BaseO%20P1710.1.pdf>.

George said individuals who wish to report a violation should primarily contact PMO or the Environmental Compliance and Protection Department, who can respond immediately, as well as alert Olayvar.

If you would like more information about the conservation law enforcement investigator and officer, or clarification of base wildlife and recreational regulations, call the Environmental Compliance and Protection Department at 257-6920, and press “4,” or e-mail Olayvar at Gordon. [olayvar@usmc.mil](mailto:olayvar@usmc.mil).

“(People) should use the resources and enjoy it,” Olayvar said. “(However) there’s a need to ensure that we’re using the resources properly, protecting it as we move along. We have a responsibility here on Marine Corps Base Hawaii to protect these resources so that we can all enjoy it for today and tomorrow.”

**Gordon Olayvar, the federal conservation law enforcement investigator and officer at the Environmental Compliance and Protection Department, and Ken Lesperance, conservation police officer with Department of Land and Natural Resources, go out on patrol on Kaneohe Bay, June 20.**




RECON, from A-1

nothing new to us, there are several considerations when working with the CH-53E in waterborne operations. The rotor wash from the helo made just getting to the SPIE line a challenge. Conducting rehearsals prior to going live is what led to today's successful training. It was an absolute blast."

This year's RIMPAC exercise is the 23rd in the series since the exercise began in 1971 and began with an opening reception June 29. The exercise will conclude with a closing reception Aug. 3. They're a total of 22 participating nations, including the United States, Australia, Canada, Mexico and the Republic of Korea and will cover a wide range of training to develop capable, adaptive partners.

Marines of Alpha Company, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, attach to a SPIE line and are lifted out of the water during a training exercise at Kaneohe Bay in preparation for RIMPAC 2012, Saturday. During the training, the Marines helocasted into the water from a CH-53E Super Stallion and then were extracted from the water via the SPIE technique.


Lance Cpl. James Sauter | Hawaii Marine



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